

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION
U.S. Appln. No. 09/856,362

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following paragraph:

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will appear on reading the following description of embodiments of the invention, given by way of example and made with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic graph showing how spectrum distribution is modified by the Raman effect in a very broad band transmission system; ~~and~~

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic graph showing the appearance of gain for amplification in a very broad band transmission system; and

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a very broad band wavelength division multiplexed transmission system according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Please add the following paragraph after the last paragraph of page 13:

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a very broad band wavelength division multiplexed transmission system according to one embodiment of the present invention. As shown, compensation means 302 compensates for energy transfers between channels of signals transmitted via an optical fiber 301. As discussed above, the compensation means 302 could include distributed amplification at the shorter wavelengths, or distributed loss at the longer wavelengths, or could include both. The compensation means could be means for emitting lower

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powers distributed application means (e.g., Raman amplifier means), and/or means for emitting lower powers towards the end of the band.